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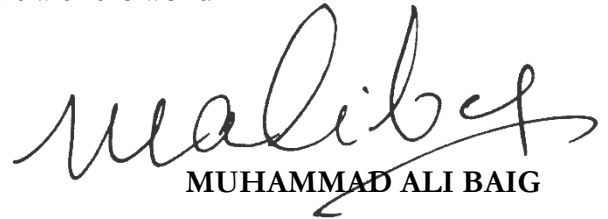
No. HEC/CD/NCRC/ENGLISH/2025/**7582**

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SUBJECT: REVISED CURRICULA FOR ENGLISH DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, as mandated by its law, provides guidance to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on curricula for tertiary education levels in alignment with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). To address evolving academic trends and market demands, HEC has revised the curricular standards for English degree programs at NQF levels 5-7. These updated standards are intricately aligned with HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy (V 1.1), Graduate Education Policy (2023) and NQF ensuring coherence with national priorities and adherence to international benchmarks.

2. The revised curricula for English degree programs are hereby notified. Universities offering these programs are advised to align their curricula with these updated standards as a minimum requirement. The respective departments must also develop course contents in accordance with the prescribed framework, ensuring that the programs address evolving scholarly, and professional needs to enhance employability potential of English graduates. Subsequently, the finalized course contents should be submitted electronically to this office at the earliest. An electronic copy of the revised curricula is available on HEC's official website.
3. With the support of universities in implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where English graduates contribute meaningfully to cultural dialogue, knowledge production, and national development through language, literature, and critical engagement with the world.


MUHAMMAD ALI BAIG

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CURRICULUM FOR

ENGLISH DEGREE PROGRAMS

Associate Degree | Bachelor of Studies | Master of Studies

2025

**Academics Division
Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
Government of Pakistan**

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PREFACE

The curriculum serves as a comprehensive blueprint for the teaching-learning process that students must navigate to achieve specific academic objectives. This encompasses clearly defined prior learning requirements, program objectives, scheme of studies, and course learning outcomes. As knowledge rapidly evolves and new fields emerge, it is crucial to continually develop and revise curricula to ensure they remain current, relevant, and impactful.

As mandated by its law through Clause 10-1 (a), (l), (s), and (v), the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has been developing and periodically updating curricula through its National Curriculum Revision Committees (NCRCs). These committees are generally composed of subject matter experts, researchers, and representatives from accreditation bodies, professional councils, and industry. In response to the evolving needs, HEC has undertaken the task to develop robust standards for the curricula of degree programs in English at levels 5-7 of the National Qualifications Framework. These standards are meticulously structured in accordance with the HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and Graduate Education Policy (2023), ensuring alignment with both national priorities and international educational standards.

The degree programs in English are designed to develop students' critical understanding of language, literature, and communication across historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts. These programs offer a balanced foundation in English Literature and Linguistics, equipping graduates with analytical, interpretive, and expressive skills essential for academic inquiry and professional engagement. The curricular standards, developed by academic experts and practitioners from across the country, aim to elevate the quality and relevance of English education by promoting scholarly excellence, creative thinking, and ethical academic practice. Graduates are prepared for dynamic career pathways in education, research, media, publishing, language services, and other sectors where strong communication and critical reasoning are vital.

With the support of universities in implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where English graduates contribute meaningfully to cultural dialogue, knowledge production, and national development through language, literature, and critical engagement with the world.

Dr. Amjad Hussain

Director General
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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Minimum Standards

The curricular standards and guidelines prescribed in this document are mandatory at minimum level. Universities or the departments concerned may, however, set higher standards provided that the standards prescribed herein are not reduced or compromised.

Course Sequence, Titles & Credits

For Associate Degree (AD), Bachelor of Studies (BS) and Master of Studies (MS) in English, the sequence of courses prescribed in this document is logically arranged and is suggestive only. The department concerned may rearrange the sequence and alter the course titles and credit hours provided that the essence of the courses prescribed herein remains intact. The department concerned may also add more courses as and when required subject to the approval of the university's relevant statutory body.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course learning outcomes (CLOs) are the bare minimum standards of learning that students must achieve upon completing a specific course. While these standards must not be compromised, departments are encouraged to enhance the rigor of the CLOs by incorporating additional learning outcomes, provided these do not alter the essence of the prescribed standards. In this document, CLOs are developed for major and interdisciplinary courses and whereas for electives, the concerned departments are required to develop their CLOs considering the course's advanced nature. For General Education courses as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 including the courses of "Pakistan Studies" and "Understanding of Holy Quran I & II", the departments may adopt the CLOs as prescribed in the HEC developed model courses.

Course Syllabus

This document serves as a comprehensive guideline delineating the CLOs for each course as prescribed for the AD, BS and MS in English as minimum standards. The department concerned is required to prepare, modify, and tailor the syllabus of each course, ensuring alignment with the stipulated learning outcomes and scholarly demands. It is in this regard imperative that the department concerned utilizes instructional, reference, and reading materials that it deems appropriate to effectively meet the CLOs.

General Education

For AD and BS in English, the courses for General Education component including the courses of "Pakistan Studies" and "Understanding of Holy Quran I & II" must mandatorily be offered with the same titles and credit hours as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1., and subsequent notifications. The department concerned may adopt and follow the learning outcomes and study contents developed by HEC for these courses as available on its website. The requirement of General Education is not applicable to MS in English.

Requirement of Internship

Supervised internship of 3 credit hours in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V.1.1. is a mandatory degree award requirement for BS. This requirement must be graded and supervised under a faculty member in collaboration with a supervisor in the field, protocols of which will be determined by the concerned department subject to approval of the same by the university's relevant statutory body.

Requirement of Capstone

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of 3 credit hours for BS in English. The capstone is a multifaceted body of work that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. It must be supervised and graded by a faculty member as per the protocols prescribed by the department concerned. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work or internship.

Associate Degree

The eligibility criteria and the first-four semesters of the BS in English as prescribed in this document guide the admission requirement and the structure of AD in English, respectively. Field experience / internship is not a mandatory requirement for the AD in English.

Electives

- a) In accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, the department is required to offer at least 7 electives comprised of 21 credit hours i.e., minimum of 25% of the major i.e., English comprised of 84 credit hours, to meet the criteria of nomenclature with specialization. Where the department increases the range of major beyond 84, the number of electives will accordingly be adjusted.
- b) Where the electives are opted from the general pool, the degree will be awarded as BS in English in its generic form and without any specialization. Example: **Bachelor of Studies in English**.
- c) Where the electives are opted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be offered as Bachelor of Studies in English (with name of specialization) in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015). Example: **Bachelor of Studies in English (English Linguistics)**, **Bachelor of Studies in English (English Literature)** etc.
- d) Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed in this document. It should however be noted that offering of the degree program with specialization is prescribed in this document as an option only and **not** as a mandatory requirement or a binding on the offering department. In view of this, the department concerned may consider offering the degree program with specialization or not, in accordance with its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

Equivalence of Qualifications

All the graduates having degrees of BS in English with or without specialization will be considered at par in terms of their knowledge, skills and abilities acquired through the course of the degree program, for the purpose of employment and further education. Therefore, all graduates having BS in English with any specialization are considered equivalent to BS in English. However, where specific specialization is required by employment agencies such as English (English Linguistics), the same cannot be considered at par with any other specialization such as English (English Literature). The titles given here are examples for clarification only.

Entry & Exit Provisions at Undergraduate Level

Pathway for Graduates with Associate Degree

- a) Candidates who have completed AD in English are allowed admission in the fifth semester of the BS in English with or without any deficiency course up to a maximum of 18 credit hours as determined by the concerned university / department. In case the deficiency courses are of more than 18 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not to offer admission in

accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

- b) Candidates who have completed AD in any discipline other than English shall be required to complete deficiency courses up to a maximum 18 credit hours in a bridging semester as determined by the concerned university / department on case-to-case basis. In case the deficiency courses are or more than 18 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not to offer admission in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- c) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in the above cases is 2.00 / 4.00 CGPA in the prior qualification i.e., AD. The university concerned may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of BS in English.

Pathway for Graduates with Conventional BA / BSc / Equivalent Degree Programs

- a) Candidates having completed two-year conventional BA / BSc / equivalent degree programs are allowed admission in the fifth semester of BS in English in which case, such students shall be required to complete deficiency courses up to a maximum of 21 credit hours through a bridging semester as determined by the concerned university. In case the deficiency courses are of more than 21 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not offer admission, in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- b) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in this case is 45% cumulative score in the prior qualification i.e., two-year conventional BA / BSc / equivalent degree programs. The university concerned may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of BS in English.

Exiting from Bachelor of Studies in English with the Associate Degree

Students enrolled in BS in English are allowed to exit the program provided they have completed the requirements of the first-four semesters of the BS degree program as prescribed in this document, and subject to approval of the university's relevant statutory body.

BACHELOR OF STUDIES (BS)

Program Description

The program of BS English is structured in accordance with the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and subsequent notifications, to provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of the English language, literature, and linguistics in both historical and contemporary contexts. Throughout the program, students will engage with a broad spectrum of literary texts, linguistic theories, and communicative practices to develop a critical awareness of language, culture, identity, and meaning-making. The curriculum is designed to equip students with foundational and advanced knowledge in English Literature and English Linguistics, supported by core and elective courses that reflect global trends, local relevance, and emerging fields such as digital humanities, discourse studies, and language technology. Students will learn to analyze texts, investigate language structure and use, and explore the socio-political and philosophical dimensions of literature and language. As a policy requirement, the program includes a capstone project that allows students to apply their disciplinary and interdisciplinary learning to real-world linguistic, literary, or cultural questions. Through this capstone, students will demonstrate research competence, critical thinking, and academic communication skills while contributing original insights to the field of English studies. The main goal of this program is to prepare students for diverse career paths in academia, education, research, publishing, media, cultural institutions, and language-related industries. Graduates of BS English will possess strong analytical and interpretive abilities, advanced communication and writing skills, and a critical understanding of how language and literature shape and are shaped by societies across time and space.

Standard Nomenclature

The scheme of study prescribed for the four-year undergraduate degree in English is based on a total of 7 electives. Where these courses are opted from the general pool of electives, the degree will be titled **Bachelor of Studies in English** in its generic form and without any specialization. Whereas, if all the electives are opted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be titled Bachelor of Studies in English with the name of specialization in parenthesis in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015).

Program Learning Outcomes

By the completion of Bachelor of Studies in English, the graduates will be able to:

- Understand and explain core concepts, theories, and critical traditions in English studies.
- Apply interdisciplinary approaches to critically examine texts, discourse, and language use across historical, cultural, and technological contexts.
- Demonstrate proficiency in interpretive, analytical, and communicative skills, including close reading, critical writing, linguistic analysis, and oral expression.
- Recognize the role of language, literature, and culture in shaping social identities, power dynamics, and worldviews in both local and global contexts.
- Integrate emerging technologies including AI and media technologies in the study and application of English studies to respond to contemporary societal and professional needs.

Eligibility & Admission Criteria

Higher Secondary School Certificate (involving 12 years of schooling) or an IBCC equivalent qualification in any group is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the BS in English including any of its specializations. Further, the university concerned may set minimum eligibility scores and may conduct entry / admission test through its own testing body or an external testing

services provider of repute as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

Program Structure

The Bachelor of Studies in English is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. and comprises of minimum **136** credit hours spread over 8 regular semesters. Universities may offer courses up to a maximum of 148 credit hours provided that the total number of credit hours are reasonably set to achieve the Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) without putting an undue burden on students.

Minimum Credit Hours (including all program related requirements)		136
General Education		34 credit hours (15 courses)
Major	a) Compulsory	63 credit hours (21 courses) Mandatory courses as reflected in the scheme of study, irrespective of the area of specialization (where applicable).
	b) Mandatory Electives	21 credit hours (7 courses) (to be opted from either general pool of electives or from a particular specialization)
	Total Major Requirement	84 credit hours (28 courses)
Interdisciplinary Courses		12 credit hours (4 courses)
Internship		3 credit hours
Capstone Project		3 credit hours
Program Duration		Minimum: 4 Years Maximum: 6 Years (further extendable to another year subject to approval of university's statutory body)
Semester Duration		16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination)
Course Load (per semester)		15-18 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial / deficiency / failure / repeat courses only)
3 Credit Hours (Theory)		3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester

The standard scheme of studies for the program of BS in English (irrespective of the area of specialization) is given as under:

SEMESTER I			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Introduction to Literary Studies	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Introduction to Linguistics	3 (3-0)	Major

3	Quantitative Reasoning – I *	3 (3-0)	General Education
4	Functional English *	3 (3-0)	General Education
5	Islamic Studies * (Religious Edu / Ethics for non-Muslim students)	2 (2-0)	General Education
6	Applications of Information & Communication Technologies *	3 (2-1)	General Education
7	Understanding of Holy Quran – I *	1 (0-1)	General Education
Total Credits Hours = 18			

SEMESTER II			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Introduction to Literary Movements	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Quantitative Reasoning – II *	3 (3-0)	General Education
4	Pakistan Studies *	2 (2-0)	General Education
5	Expository Writing *	3 (3-0)	General Education
6	Social Sciences **	2 (2-0)	General Education
7	Understanding of Holy Quran – II *	1 (0-1)	General Education
Total Credits Hours = 17			

SEMESTER III			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Introduction to Textual Analysis	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Introduction to Morphology	3 (3-0)	Major
3	British Literary History: Medieval to Romantic	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Natural Science ***	3 (3-0)	General Education
5	Arts & Humanities ****	2 (2-0)	General Education
6	Civics & Community Engagement *	2 (2-0)	General Education
7	Ideology & Constitution of Pakistan *	2 (2-0)	General Education
Total Credit Hours = 18			

SEMESTER IV			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	British Literary History: Victorian to Postmodern	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Semantics and Pragmatics	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Syntax	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Poetry: 14th to 19th Century	3 (3-0)	Major
5	Stylistics	3 (3-0)	Major
6	Entrepreneurship *	2 (2-0)	General Education
Total Credit Hours = 17			

SEMESTER V			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Classical Drama	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Sociolinguistics	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Non-Fiction	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Interdisciplinary Course – I *****	3	Interdisciplinary
5	Interdisciplinary Course – II *****	3	Interdisciplinary
6	Interdisciplinary Course – III *****	3	Interdisciplinary
Total Credit Hours = 18			

SEMESTER VI			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Novel: 18th & 19th Century	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Discourse Studies	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Psycholinguistics	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Second Language Acquisition	3 (3-0)	Major
5	Literary Theory and Criticism	3 (3-0)	Major
Total Credit Hours = 15			

SEMESTER VII			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Elective – I *****	3	Major
2	Elective – II *****	3	Major
3	Elective – III *****	3	Major
4	Elective – IV *****	3	Major
5	Research Methods for English Studies	3 (3-0)	Major
Total Credit Hours = 15			

SEMESTER VIII			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Elective – V *****	3	Major
2	Elective – VI *****	3	Major
3	Elective – VII *****	3	Major
4	Language & Technology in the Digital Age *****	3 (3-0)	Interdisciplinary (Mandatory)
5	Capstone Project	3	Capstone
Total Credit Hours = 15			

* HEC designed **model courses** for general education may be used by the university.

** The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Social Sciences”** including but not limited to a course of Sociology, Social Work, Anthropology, Psychology, Education etc.

- *** The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Natural Sciences”** which should have relevance to the purpose of the degree program.
- **** The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Arts & Humanities”** including but not limited to a course of regional or international language such as Chinese, Arabic, French, Spanish etc. or any other course such as Philosophy, History etc.
- ***** The university / concerned department must offer at least 4 **interdisciplinary courses**. Out of 4 interdisciplinary courses, 1 namely course namely “Language & Technology in the Digital Age” is mandatory, whereas the remaining 3 may be offered from the recommended list provided in this document, or any other such course to enhance the interdisciplinary understanding of the students, keeping in view the available academic, human and infrastructural resources of the department. **Credit combination** may be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.
- ***** Read in conjunction with guidance given on **“Standard Nomenclature”** in this document, the university / concerned department may offer any 7 advanced courses from either the general pool or from within one of the specializations as **electives** keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources. **Credit combination** may be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.

Recommended List of Interdisciplinary Courses

Students may opt interdisciplinary courses from the following list where required in the scheme of studies for BS in English, from the same or other departments to complement their holistic understanding of the major, provided that the same is allowed by the department concerned. The list provided here is a recommended one only and the department concerned may add more courses as and when needed.

1. Creative Writing across Disciplines
2. Environmental Humanities
3. Intercultural Communication
4. Introduction Human Nutrition & Dietetics
5. Introduction of Media Studies
6. Introduction to Gender Studies
7. Introduction to Political Science
8. Introduction to Public Administration
9. Language & Politics
10. Language & Power
11. Language, Race & Ethnicity
12. Literature & Law
13. Modern World History
14. Narratives of Health & Illness
15. Philosophy of Language
16. Postcolonial Thought & Cultural Studies
17. Public Relations
18. Sustainable Development Goals
19. Technology & Society in the 21st Century
20. Visual Culture & Representation

Degree Award Requirements

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for the award of BS in English:

- a) All courses in the General Education category with titles and credit hours as prescribed in HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. including the courses of “Pakistan Studies”, “Understanding of Holy Quran – I” and “Understanding of Holy Quran – II” must be completed.
- b) A minimum of **136** credit hours as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- c) A capstone of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework or internship / field experience.
- d) A supervised internship of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework, capstone or project work.
- e) CGPA must not be below 2.00/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set a higher standard in this regard.
- f) The minimum duration to complete the degree is 8 regular semesters spread over 4 years whereas the maximum duration is 12 regular semesters spread over 6 years. The maximum duration may further be extended to 2 more semesters **(OR)** 1 year, in extraordinary circumstances subject to approval of the university’s relevant statutory body. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS FOR BS

Major Specializations for BS English

The following are a few example specialization streams in case the BS in English is offered with specialization. Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed below. The department concerned may consider offering the degree program with specialization or otherwise, keeping in view availability of its academic, human and infrastructural resources.

Specialization 1: English Linguistics

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Anthropological Linguistics
2. Applied Linguistics
3. Artificial Linguistics
4. Cognitive Linguistics
5. Comparative Linguistics
6. Computational Linguistics
7. Corpus Linguistics
8. Critical Discourse Analysis
9. Ecolinguistics
10. English for Specific Purposes
11. Forensic Linguistics
12. Language Acquisition Disorders
13. Language Testing & Assessment
14. Language, Gender & Identity
15. Multilingualism
16. Multimodalities in Communication
17. Neurolinguistics
18. Pedagogical Grammar
19. TESOL: Theory & Practice
20. Translation Studies

Specialization 2: English Literature

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. 20th Century Global Literature: Poetry & Drama
2. American Literature
3. Children Literature
4. Comparative Literature
5. Continental Literature
6. Digital Narratives & Electronic Literature
7. Disability Studies

8. Environmental Humanities
9. Fantasy & Speculative Fiction
10. Literature of Resistance
11. Literature, Film and Theater
12. Medical Humanities
13. Pakistani Literature in English
14. Partition Literature
15. Post Modernist Literature
16. Postcolonial Literature
17. South Asian Literature
18. Teaching of Literature
19. Women Writings
20. World Literatures in Translation

MASTER OF STUDIES (MS)

Program Description

The Master of Studies (MS) in English program is designed in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023 to provide advanced knowledge and research skills in English literature and linguistics. The program will build critical understanding of theoretical frameworks, scholarly inquiry, and interdisciplinary approaches across both domains. Through core and specialization courses, students will be engaged with complex texts, language structures, and cultural discourses, preparing them for independent research. The program will culminate in a research thesis, enabling students to contribute original insights to their chosen field. Graduates with MS English will be equipped for academic, professional, and cultural roles requiring advanced analytical and communication skills.

Standard Nomenclature

The standard nomenclature for all NQF level 7 qualifications in the field of English must only be specialization oriented with name depicting area of specialization such as the following:

“Master of Studies in English Literature” “Master of Studies in English Linguistics”

Note:

- a) The nomenclature of degree “Master of Studies” may be substituted with “Master of Philosophy” as may be determined and approved by the relevant statutory body of the university, keeping all other standards and requirements prescribed herein intact.
- b) The above specializations are given as examples only and the concerned university may offer NQF level 7 qualifications in English in any of above or other specializations keeping in view the available academic, human and infrastructural resources and subject to provisions of the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

Program Learning Outcomes

By the completion of MS in any of the specialized field of English, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate advanced knowledge of theoretical, analytical, and interdisciplinary frameworks in the area of specialization.
- b) Critically analyze and evaluate complex texts and language phenomena, integrating scholarly perspectives to construct coherent and well-supported arguments.
- c) Design and conduct independent, methodologically sound research in the area of specialization adhering to ethical standards and academic conventions.
- d) Communicate ideas, interpretations and research findings effectively to academic and professional audiences through advanced written and oral expression.

Eligibility & Admission Criteria

- a) An undergraduate degree (involving 16 years of education) in English or any of its specialized areas is the basic eligibility requirement for admission. In case the candidate has knowledge deficiency, the university concerned may offer deficiency courses up to a maximum of 9 credit hours as it may determine on case-to-case basis and in accordance with HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).
- b) In addition to the basic eligibility, the university concerned is further required to conduct a rigorous admission test as an eligibility condition for admission to the program, with a passing score of 50% **(OR)** accept the GRE / HAT General / equivalent tests, with a passing score of

50%. The university concerned may also set minimum eligibility scores (above 50%) as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

Program Structure

The standard structure of the degree program is as below:

Minimum Credit Hours		32
Course Work	a) Mandatory Subject Core	6 credit hours (2 courses)
	b) Subject Electives	18 credit hours (6 courses)
	c) Mandatory Quranic Courses	2 credit hours (2 courses)
	Total Coursework Requirement	26 credit hours
Research Thesis		6 credit hours
Program Duration		Minimum: 1.5 Years (3 regular semesters) Maximum: 4 Years (8 regular semesters) Note: In case a student is unable to secure an MS within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes of delay. In the event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of MS degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons.
Semester Duration		16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination)
Course Load (per semester)		09-12 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial / deficiency / failure / repetition courses only)
3 Credit Hours (Theory)		3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester

The standard scheme of studies for MS, irrespective of the area of specialization is given below:

SEMESTER I			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Theoretical Perspectives in English Studies *	3 (3-0)	Core
2	Advanced Research Methods in English Studies *	3 (3-0)	Core
3	Elective – I **	3	Elective
4	Elective – II **	3	Elective
Total Credit Hours = 12			

SEMESTER II			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Elective – III **	3	Elective
2	Elective – IV **	3	Elective
3	Elective – V **	3	Elective
4	Elective – VI **	3	Elective
Total Credit Hours = 12			

SEMESTER III			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Understanding of Holy Quran – I ***	1 (0-1)	General Education
2	Understanding of Holy Quran – II ***	1 (0-1)	General Education
3	Thesis ****	6	Research
Total Credit Hours = 8			

- * These are the **mandatory** courses for the program, irrespective of the area of specialization.
- ** The university / concerned department may offer any advanced course in the field of English as an **elective**, where required as per its available academic, human and infrastructural resources. **Credit combination** (reflecting balance of theory and lab / field work) must be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.
- *** These are prescribed for all NQF level 4-8 qualifications as mandated vide HEC letter **No. 10-01/2022/Coord(Acad)/HEC/235** dated March 28, 2025.
- **** **Research** work for thesis must be conducted by students individually in accordance with the university's policy as approved through its statutory bodies provided that the same is in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

Degree Award Requirements

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for award of MS:

- A minimum of 26 credit hours of course work including 6 credit hours for core courses, 18 credit hours for specialization-oriented electives and 2 credit hours for Quranic courses as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- In addition to coursework, a research thesis of 6 credit hours must also be completed individually as partial fulfilment of the degree program. Requirement of research thesis is mandatory and cannot be substituted with additional course work.
- CGPA must not be below 2.50 / 4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set a higher standard in this regard.
- The minimum duration required to complete the degree is 3 regular semesters which may be extended up to a maximum of 8 regular semesters. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

AD, BS & MS

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

Advanced Research Methods for English Studies

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Explain advanced research methodologies as applied to the area of specialization.
- b) Critically review academic research in terms of design, validity, and ethical standards.
- c) Formulate a coherent and methodologically sound research proposal.
- d) Apply appropriate research tools and analysis techniques to investigate disciplinary problems.

British Literary History: Medieval to Romantic

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify key literary texts, authors, and movements from the Medieval to the Romantic period.
- b) Analyze how historical, religious, and cultural contexts shape literary themes and forms.
- c) Interpret representative works using appropriate literary terminology and historical awareness.

British Literary History: Victorian to Postmodern

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace major literary developments from the Victorian to Postmodern period.
- b) Examine thematic and stylistic shifts in literary texts in the light of socio-political changes.
- c) Apply critical frameworks to analyze texts from different genres within this timeline.

Classical Drama

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Describe the structural and thematic features of Classical drama.
- b) Analyze the works of major dramatists in their historical and philosophical contexts.
- c) Evaluate different dramatic conventions in Classical drama.

Discourse Studies

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Explain key concepts in discourse studies.
- b) Relate the relevance of concepts in language use.
- c) Apply different models of discourse analysis.

Introduction to Linguistics

- a) Define fundamental concepts in linguistics.
- b) Describe the nature and structure of language across its core components (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics).
- c) Recognize key linguistic features.

Introduction to Literary Movements

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify key literary movements.
- b) Analyze and interpret literary works within their movements.
- c) Recognize the relationship of literary movements with other artistic and cultural movements.

Introduction to Literary Studies

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts and terms.
- b) Identify major literary genres.

- c) Recognize different literary devices and techniques.

Introduction to Morphology

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Define and explain key concepts related to structure of word.
- b) Analyze structure of word.
- c) Differentiate various word formation processes.

Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Describe how speech sounds are produced, classified, and transcribed using the IPA.
- b) Recognize segmental and suprasegmental features.
- c) Identify and analyze phonological patterns.

Introduction to Textual Analysis

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Recognize close reading techniques to identify meaning, form, and structure in texts.
- b) Analyze textual elements such as tone, symbolism, and narrative perspective contextually.
- c) Interpret literary and non-literary texts.

Language & Technology in the Digital Age

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Analyze the impact of digital technologies on language use, communication patterns, and discourse.
- b) Evaluate linguistic practices across digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, and AI interfaces.
- c) Examine ethical, social, and cultural implications of technology-mediated language use.

Literary Theory & Criticism

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify major schools of thought and key concepts of literary theory and criticism.
- b) Apply major theoretical approaches to interpret texts.
- c) Evaluate the relevance and limitations of different critical perspectives in analyzing literature.

Non-Fiction

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify different forms of literary non-fiction including essays, memoirs, and autobiographies.
- b) Analyze narrative strategies in non-fiction texts.
- c) Interpret the role of personal, political, and philosophical reflection in shaping non-fiction writing.

Novel: 18th & 19th Century

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace the evolution of the English novel during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- b) Analyze narrative structure, character development, and thematic concerns in the selected novels.
- c) Evaluate the socio-cultural functions of the novel as a literary form in these periods.

Poetry: 14th to 19th Century

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify major poets and poetic forms from the 14th to 19th century.
- b) Analyze poetic language, meter, and figurative techniques used in selected works.
- c) Interpret recurring themes and cultural values reflected in 14th to 19th Century poetry.

Psycholinguistics

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Explain key concepts in psycholinguistics.
- b) Analyze stages in language acquisition.
- c) Identify the factors causing language processing difficulties and disorders.

Research Methods for English Studies

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Explain key research paradigms and methodologies used in literary and linguistic research.
- b) Formulate clear research questions and hypotheses relevant to English studies.
- c) Select and apply appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative research tools for data collection and analysis.
- d) Develop a structured research proposal adhering to academic standards and ethical guidelines.

Second Language Acquisition

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Describe major theories and models of second language acquisition (SLA).
- b) Analyze factors influencing SLA (e.g. age, motivation, input etc.).
- c) Evaluate pedagogical implications of SLA research.

Semantics & Pragmatics

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Explain key concepts and distinctions in semantics and pragmatics.
- b) Analyze literal and contextual meanings.
- c) Apply semantic and pragmatic frameworks to real-life language data.

Sociolinguistics

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Describe the key concepts related to language and society.
- b) Analyze sociolinguistic phenomena such as code-switching, diglossia, language shift etc.
- c) Evaluate the relationship between language use and social identity.

Stylistics

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Explain the role of linguistic features in shaping literary and non-literary texts.
- b) Analyze stylistic elements such as register, tone, cohesion, foregrounding etc.
- c) Evaluate how stylistic choices influence meaning and reader interpretation.

Syntax

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Describe basic syntactic structures and categories in English.
- b) Apply syntactic rules to analyze phrase and sentence construction.
- c) Compare different syntactic models and their theoretical implications.

Theoretical Perspectives in English Studies

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate advanced understanding of key theoretical schools relevant to the area of specialization.
- b) Critically compare theoretical frameworks and assess their applicability to the area of specialization.
- c) Apply selected theories to the interpretation of texts and language in scholarly contexts.
- d) Evaluate the strengths and limitations of critical perspectives in addressing phenomena relevant to the area of specialization.